

Egyptian women stage war protest

CAIRO (R) — About 35 Egyptian women burned U.S. and Israeli flags at a sit-in protest against the Gulf war on Sunday. "Oh America gather your money, for tomorrow the Arab people will trample all over you," the women from the leftwing Unionist Progressive Party (UPP) chanted during a three-hour protest at UPP headquarters. The women, who said they would send provisions to Iraqi and Kuwaiti children, included acclaimed writers and actresses. Riot police with batons and shields waited nearby but did not intervene. The sit-in was the latest in a series of protests by small opposition groups against the Gulf war. On Thursday, police used force to disperse opposition leaders and 50 of their supporters when they attempted their first anti-Gulf war march. They urged Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait but said in reference to U.S.-led allied bombing: "What is happening now exceeds the liberation of Kuwait and is an attempt to destroy Iraq, isolate it and degrade it." Writer Fathiya Al Assal said the UPP would set up a committee to gather donations, baby milk powder, blankets and clothes to be sent to Iraq and Kuwait through the International Red Cross.

Volume 16 Number 4623

AMMAN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1991, RAJAB 26, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

جordan Times يومي ملخصة لبيانات الجريدة الإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)



Israel detains 350 Hamas activists

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel said Sunday it had arrested 350 Palestinian activists of the Islamic resistance movement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The army said the activists of the group known as Hamas (Zea) included Ashraf Balaji of Gaza City, suspected of stabbing to death three Israelis in Jaffa in December. Israel allowed some Palestinians to resume work inside the Jewish state Sunday for the first time in the Gulf war but warned they would suffer for any protest in their home towns. In the West Bank, Palestinians said soldiers trying to enforce a curfew shot dead a 12-year-old boy in Dheisheh refugee camp. Hamas is one of two leading forces behind the 38-month-old Palestinian uprising. A Hamas leader issued in the occupied territories Sunday praised Iraqi missile attacks against Israel, saying they made Jews suffer as Palestinians do under Israeli rule.

Iraq vows to fight to the end

Baghdad: Decision to battle irrevocable

Combined agency despatches

IRAQ SAID Sunday that the decision to fight the U.S.-led coalition was irrevocable and ruled out any compromise over withdrawal from Kuwait.

"The decision... in Iraq to fight the aggressors and bury their evil designs... is irrevocable," Bagdad Radio said.

The army newspaper Al Qadisiyah also ruled out any compromise or bargaining in the Gulf, apparently dashing hopes for peace initiatives such as that by Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Al Qadisiyah said Iraq had no intention of compromising on its claim to Kuwait.

"The Iraqi people and army, led by the unique leader Saddam Hussein, will continue to wage the mother of battles to the end," the paper said. "There is no compromise or bargaining... this would impair Iraq's claim to its territorial integrity."

Bagdad Radio said the allied air raids were making Iraqis more determined to fight.

Addressing Arabs elsewhere, the radio said, "the decision made by your brothers in Iraq to fight the aggressors... is irrevocable."

Neither Al Qadisiyah nor the radio commentary specifically mentioned the Iranian peace initiative, but the tone of the commentaries suggested Iraq was not prepared to make concessions.

"If the aggressor believes that its aerial bombardment can affect our people's determination, then he is deluded and has only deceived himself, because his crimes only make us more determined to have justice and be more committed to the great aims," said Bagdad Radio.

Addressing Iraqis and other Arabs, it said: "Iraq remains Iraq, and the Iraqis remain the same Iraqis you know: Standing tall with their heads high and a confidence in victory that deepens daily."

Al Qadisiyah attacked U.S. President George Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand, British Prime Minister John Major, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

"There is no compromise or bargaining because — in the light of the evil plot of Bush, Mitterrand, Major, and their likes... and



A victim of the allied attacks on Iraq in hospital

Allies destroy another bridge on River Tigris

Combined agency despatches

U.S.-LED FORCES destroyed a suspension bridge and damaged another over the Tigris River that divides the Iraqi capital during a day night.

The United States lost its first aircraft to Iraqi fire in more than a week when a Marine Corps attack jet was shot down, the U.S. command in Saudi Arabia said Sunday.

Confirming a report by military sources, the command identified the downed plane as an AV-8 Harrier jump-jet. The pilot was missing, it said.

The plane was lost Saturday, it said.

Iraq said the United States and its allies carried out 57 raids, including strikes against residential areas, on Saturday night and

Sunday.

"The enemy last night and this morning sent their planes to conduct 57 air raids against our residential areas or to fire from a distance at some of our (military) units," said Baghdad Radio.

Three of the eight bridges spanning the River Tigris have been completely knocked out in what appears to be a concerted allied campaign to cut Baghdad's transport links to the estimated 500,000 Iraqi troops in southern Iraq and Kuwait.

Correspondents also saw a Baghdad building that had been hit by allied missiles but were not allowed to disclose its location.

Two bridges over the Euphrates were destroyed and a third damaged in allied air attacks near Nasiriyah, about 130 kilometres north of the Kuwaiti border, last Monday.

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House briefed on Ramtha events in private after heated open debate

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A heated debate at the Lower House of Parliament Sunday over disturbances that took place at the border town of Ramtha last week prompted the Prime Minister, Mr. Mudar Badran, to ask for a closed session to "put deputies in the right picture."

Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyah obliged, and journalists and spectators were asked to leave the gallery.

Earlier in the session deputies

but said all had been released. Mr. Zou'bi defended the people of Ramtha for attacking the trucks, "carrying food, fruits and alcohol for the U.S. forces," and asked "or else, what is the meaning of the House's resolution to strike at U.S. interests?"

Deputy Abdullah Zureikat, reading a statement on behalf of the National Bloc, described the method by which Ramtha's people expressed themselves as "wrong." He said that "some saboteurs" were trying to do

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3-week delay possible in ground offensive

Combined agency despatches

U.S. MILITARY commanders in the Gulf recommended a three-week delay in launching a ground war to give allied bombers more time to soften up Iraqi troops entrenched in Kuwait, the New York Times reported Sunday.

Quoting unnamed senior U.S. officers, the Times said the recommendations were made to Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during nine hours of meetings in Saudi Arabia.

"We want to maximise our firepower and minimise Saddam Hussein's defensive strength, which will take time," an unidentified senior planner told the Times.

He said the wounded were placed under arrest and taken to hospital for treatment.

Palestinian witnesses said soldiers opened fire in the camp shortly after the army lifted curfew. Hundreds of refugees came out of their homes after the shooting but the army dispersed them with tear-gas and restored the curfew.

Israel, in an effort to suppress Palestinian demonstrations in support of Iraq, imposed a blanket curfew on the 1.75 million residents of the occupied territories when the Gulf war began.

After a day and a half of consultations with U.S. commanders in Saudi Arabia, Mr. Cheney said that at least for the moment allied air power was still effective in wearing down Iraq's military machine.

"The capability of U.S. air power to do damage to (Iraqi) forces is still considerable and I think it (the air campaign) will

continue," he said.

The Times reported that the consensus of the commanders in the field was that it was too early for a ground campaign against entrenched Iraqi positions in Kuwait.

The newspaper said Mr. Cheney had pledged to pass on the recommendations to President George Bush at briefings this week.

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The army has gradually lifted

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Israelis wound 3 in ambush near Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli forces shot and wounded three Palestinians Sunday in an ambush near the West Bank city of Nablus, military sources said.

In the course of an operation to catch wanted individuals in Asker refugee camp this morning, three locals were wounded from light weapons fire which hit them in the legs," a military source said.

He said the wounded were placed under arrest and taken to hospital for treatment.

Palestinian witnesses said soldiers opened fire in the camp shortly after the army lifted curfew. Hundreds of refugees

came out of their homes after the shooting but the army dispersed them with tear-gas and restored the curfew.

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(Continued on page 2)

King says no shift in position, U.S. misinterpreted his speech

From Rania Atalla in Washington

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said Sunday that Jordan's only role in the Gulf war is as a humanitarian and said he was hurt that the United States had misinterpreted his recent comments as a pronouncement of siding with Iraq.

King Hussein, interviewed on the ABC news show "This Week with David Brinkley," also denied charges that Jordan was a conduit for arms into Iraq.

The King's television interview followed a speech last week in which he bitterly criticised the U.S.-led attack against Iraq.

The speech sparked sharp criticism from President George Bush and prompted a review of U.S. aid to the Kingdom.

A leading member of the U.S. Senate said Sunday the U.S. Congress should not authorise foreign aid to Jordan as long as the war with Iraq continues.

Senator Richard Lugar, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Jordan should not receive the \$50 to \$55 million in foreign aid because "they are against us."

"I appreciate (King) Hussein, but I appreciate likewise constancy in friendship," Mr. Lugar said in reference to what was considered, until recently, a close U.S.-Jordanian relationship.

Representative Lee Hamilton (D-Indiana), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and chairman of the House Subcommittee on the Middle East and Europe, said he did not think Congress would approve or reappropriate the \$55 million aid to Jordan.

King Hussein made no reference to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

But Mr. Hamilton reiterated that what U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told Congress earlier this week, that the U.S. "ought not to be spiteful or vengeful" about Jordan's position. He said among the score of U.S.-Arab relationships with

which Washington would have to address once the war is over, the relation with Jordan would be "among the most difficult."

Members of Congress, the U.S. administration and the media have all reacted rather negatively to Jordan's condemnation of the war against Iraq. Mr. Baker expressed particular concern over the fact that in last week's speech, King Hussein

made no reference to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The King said Sunday he wanted to clarify that he had not mentioned the Aug. 2 Iraq invasion of Kuwait in his speech "having done so zillions of times before."

"On principle, and in fact, we have always been against the occupation of territory by war, and their annexation, regarding all the crises in this region, and certainly that applies to Kuwait. And our position has not changed.

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Saddam salutes Iraqis' resistance

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday saluted Iraq's resistance to the "warplanes of shame" as he took to the airwaves with an inspirational message to a country devastated by unprecedented aerial bombardment.

President Saddam described the patience and valor of the Iraqi people as "the force of faith on the frontlines" in Kuwait, and he said Iraq would emerge victorious, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

The president said the Iraqi people are more determined than ever despite the bombing that began Jan. 17, and he criticised U.S. President George Bush for resorting to warfare instead of forging a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

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Jordan scoffs at Saudi reports

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi indicated Sunday that his country's reply to an Iranian peace initiative was call for an end to the allied assault on Iraq before tackling the issue of Kuwait.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted a senior government official as saying that Jordanian ammunition reportedly captured from Iraqi troops near Khafji had been exported to Iraq in 1982 and 1983 with Saudi Arabian government assistance via the Saudi Red Sea port of Qadimeh.

"Most of the Arab countries, including Jordan, had offered assistance to Iraq in the form of ammunition in the 1980s, but the ammunition allegedly found in Khafji is not used by the Jordanian Armed Forces, a fact which is well known to the Saudi authorities," the official said.

Both Saudi Arabia and Jordan helped Iraq in its war with Iran, a conflict that ended in 1988.

Sunday TV newscasts and the leading newspaper Al Riyadh showed pictures of crates of ammunition marked in English "GHO, Jordan Armed Forces, director of planning and organisation, Amman, Jordan."

Al Riyadh splashed its article and photos in colour across its front page, plus a whole page of photos inside, and referred to arms as well as ammunition.

The alleged arms seizure initially was reported Friday by the Qatari News Agency. Allied military spokesman have not made statements on the incident.

The Saudi news reports said the munitions were found with Iraqi soldiers captured in Khafji, the northeastern town of Saudi Arabia that they invaded and held for 36 hours last week.

Asked to comment on reports that Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani last week, on Bagdad to announce its intention to withdraw from Kuwait as the first phase in any peace process. This announcement will come in response to an appeal by Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini, along the same lines that the late Ayatollah Khomeini accepted President Saddam Hussein's call for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war in August 1988, according to the initiative, which goes on the outline six other points involving a mini-Islamic summit and demand for allied withdrawal, deployment of Islamic forces and negotiations.

In his comments Sunday, Dr. Hammadi said despite 24 days of continuous air attacks the Iraqi people remain confident that they would

among Muslims will not be difficult, will not be impossible," said Dr. Hammadi in an obvious reference to Iran's call for Iraq withdrawal from Kuwait. He said Tehran would respond to the Iraqi position on its peace initiative after studying it.

It is believed that the Iranian plan, sent by his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani last week, calls on Bagdad to announce its intention to withdraw from Kuwait as the first phase in any peace process. This announcement will come in response to an appeal by Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini, along the same lines that the late Ayatollah Khomeini accepted President Saddam Hussein's call for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war in August 1988, according to the initiative, which goes on the outline six other points involving a mini-Islamic summit and demand for allied withdrawal, deployment of Islamic forces and negotiations.

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Velayati: Peace needs more work

Combined agency despatches

IRAN, WHICH presented ideas to Iraq for an end to the Gulf war, said Sunday that more time was needed before peace could be achieved.

"I think it needs more time and more effort," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told the American Cable News Network (CNN) in a satellite interview from Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Asked to comment on reports that Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was disappointed with the Iraqi response to Iran's ideas to halt the war. Mr. Velayati said Bagdad's reply was "

Jordanians sign mass demand for weapons

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — About 100,000 people across the Kingdom have signed a petition to parliament to pressure the government into mobilising the population to defend Jordan against possible aggression or invasion on the country.

With four large stacks of signed papers on a side desk at Zarka Deputy Bassam Haddadin's office in Amman, four deputies Saturday reiterated calls to arm and train Jordanians to prepare them against a threat of Israeli aggression on the Kingdom.

"Due to the continued colonialist aggression on Iraqi steadfastness, the increased possibilities of invasion and aggression on the homeland and to strengthen the steadfastness and popular ability to confront any Zionist aggression on our land, the people of Jordan, call on you to live to your responsibility by initiating a government commitment to arm the people in order to defend the homeland," read the petition, which will be delivered to parliament soon.

"The people's calls are constantly being ignored by both the parliament and the government," Mr. Haddadin told a press conference.

The deputy reiterated calls he made in Parliament last week on forming a high council comprising members of Parliament, cabinet, and union and political leaders to organise a "complete mobilisation of the people."

Mr. Haddadin also suggested to develop the People's Army, which already comprises about 100,000 members and to "enhance the national unity by creating a bearable standard of living and putting a halt to mass dismissal from work."

He said that according to his records, over 700 people were dismissed from their jobs during

the war and that the government should intervene in protecting the rights of those who were fired.

He also called for forming a new budget — "peace budget" — for this fiscal year.

"This is not the time to build roads or bridges, this is an emergency and the priority should be to strengthen the steadfastness of Jordan by preparing the country and its people to defend this land against any naked aggression," Mr. Haddadin stressed, adding that there were not "even sufficient shelters to protect our civilians if we are attacked."

Mr. Haddadin commanded his Majesty King Hussein's address to the nation last week and said that the people agreed with and applauded every sentence.

"This historic position will be registered in the conscience of every Arab and Jordanian citizen," the deputy said. "We would just like to see that position translated into action."

Since the Gulf crisis broke out last August, several deputies and political activists tried to pressure the government into arming the people. The government, in turn, opened the doors of the People's Army for men and women aged between 18 and 54 and opened more training centres across the Kingdom. However, they are not allowed to carry arms in their homes.

"We are not convinced with the reasons given by the government that there is a shortage of light arms for the people. We know understand that we have difficulties, but we also know that there are stocks of arms that can be given to the people," Mr. Haddadin said.

Amman Deputy Mansour Murad said that "if the government was really serious about defending Jordan, they should act upon it."

He added that the state has enough light arms to provide 700,000 people.

Deputy Fakhri Kawar, also a newspaper columnist, said it was obvious that Jordan was "targeted by Israel, the U.S. and its allies," and accused the government and the House for not living up to the expectations and demands of the people.

"We don't want to clash with the government; all we are asking is to provide the people with the means to defend Jordan. We all agree that we want to defend Jordan," Mr. Kawar commented.

"We all have a responsibility to back up the armed forces and the People's Army, and we should be able to have one million of the population become armed soldiers, to create a popular resistance, if we are to defend Jordan rather than just use the rhetoric we hear and see in our local media," Mr. Kawar asserted.

Deputy Husni Shiyab, who also addressed the press conference, said that there was a gap between the "verbal and practical" positions in Jordan, adding that arming the population would "at least act as a form of deterrence against the Zionist expansionist schemes on Jordan."

"All our resources must be poured into being able to defend Jordan. In 1967 the people depended on [late Egyptian President] Jamal Abdul Nasser to achieve victory," Mr. Shiyab said. "Now, at least the people are aware that they must — and they are prepared to — participate in this battle and carry out their responsibilities in gaining victory."

Mr. Haddadin said that such a decision would need a political decision and that their jobs as members of Parliament was only to lobby in Parliament to pressure the government into accepting such decisions.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Syria: Saddam assassination call not state policy

DAMASCUS (R) — An official Syrian newspaper urged Iraqis Saturday to assassinate President Saddam Hussein but a cabinet minister said this was not government policy. "The Iraqi army and the Iraqi people must liquidate him in cold blood so that the killing stops in our beloved Iraq," Al Thawra said in a front-page editorial. But Information Minister Mohammad Salman later told Reuters that Syria, for years a bitter political foe of Iraq, did not believe assassinations could solve political issues. "The determination of the fate of Saddam Hussein is left for the Iraqi people whom we trust and in whom we have confidence in their ability to determine their fate," he said. "Syria opposes assassinations." Syria has about 20,000 troops in the U.S.-led force fighting Iraq. Some went into action against Iraqi soldiers in the Gulf for the first time this week. Al Thawra said the only way to stop the "massacre" of the Iraqi army in an impending ground war was to eliminate President Saddam.

U.S. soldiers ordered to keep rifles unloaded

NORTHERN SAUDI ARABIA (R) — A U.S. divisional commander in the Gulf war has ordered his soldiers not to load their rifles unless on guard duty after a spate of accidental firings, the division's safety manager said. "The word is that we will not lock and load until contact with the enemy is imminent," said Mel Kelder, civilian safety manager of the U.S. army 3rd armoured division. "In the area where we're located now, we're not in danger," Mr. Kelder said divisional commander Major General Paul Funk ordered the safety measures after accidental firings of standard-issue M-16 rifles and other incidents among front-line units. No injuries were reported. Gen. Funk has also ordered all soldiers in the division to attend classes on handling and cleaning the semi-automatic M-16.

Cobra crashes on takeoff

SAUDI ARABIA (AP) — Two crewmen of a U.S. army attack helicopter escaped injury when their craft crashed and burned on takeoff earlier this week. The Thursday crash of the AH-1 Cobra was not combat related. Don Olson, commander of the second Armoured Cavalry Regiment's helicopter squadron, said the accident took place at one of the unit's desert outposts during a pre-dawn training mission. Information about the crash was released Saturday in a pool report. Colonel Olson did not release the names of the crew, who he said were wearing night vision goggles when the crash occurred. The craft apparently drifted sideways during takeoff. "The skid dug into the sand, the helicopter rolled and the aircraft landed on its top," Olson said. The helicopter's load of anti-tank missiles, rockets and gun ammunition exploded in the resulting fire. The Cobra, the oldest in the squadron, had been shot down twice in Vietnam.

Cloud of smoke covers Iran's province

NICOSIA (R) — A cloud of thick smoke, possibly from damaged Iraqi refineries and oil wells, floated over the Iranian border province of Ilam Sunday, the national Iranian news agency IRNA reported. The agency said the smoke was moving north from Ilam, which is level with Baghdad, towards the neighbouring province of Bakhtaran. IRNA, reporting from the Iran-Iraq border, said the "smoke may be caused by the air and missile attacks of the U.S.-led allied forces on Iraqi refineries and oil wells." On Saturday, IRNA said heavy black smoke sweeping from Iraq blanketed the Kordistan provincial capital of Sanandaj and the town of Marivan. Allied planes have been pounding targets across Iraq, including the major oil centre of Kirkuk in the north, 230 kilometres west of Sanandaj, since shortly after the start of the Gulf war on Jan. 17.

Palestinians burned alive in air attack

TUNIS (R) — Planes from the anti-Iraq alliance bombed a bus outside of Kuwait City Saturday, incinerating Palestinian and other passengers, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported Sunday. Wafa said eight Palestinians were burned alive in the bus travelling on the main highway from Kuwait City to the suburb of Al Ahmadi. Two Palestinian children died after being thrown out of the vehicle. It was the third time Wafa has reported Palestinian victims in Kuwait since the outbreak of the Gulf war Jan. 17. Some 150,000 Palestinians now live in the emirate, forming the largest foreign community.

Mysterious explosion near U.S. ship

ABOARD THE USS NICHOLAS (AP) — The U.S. navy is investigating a mysterious explosion near this frigate that crewmen say was a missile. Mark Walker, a navy public affairs officer, said the frigate was operating near the battleship USS Missouri around 4 a.m. (0100 GMT) on Feb. 4 when crewmen heard a rocket motor overhead. Crewmen said the missile crossed the Nicholas' bow and detonated about 20 metres off the starboard beam. There was a bright flash and lookouts aboard the ship said they felt the heat from the blast. Dennis Morral, the ship's captain, said he initially thought his ship was too close to the Missouri's 16-inch guns. Shrapnel from the explosion hit the ship's superstructure, but there were no injuries or serious damage. The fragments were sent ashore for analysis to determine the type of weapon and its origin. The Nicholas has been on patrol in the northern Gulf since before the war began. It was on anti-aircraft patrol with the battleships Wisconsin and Missouri at the time of the incident.

Palestinian-American charged with murder

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A Palestinian-American who was extradited from the United States was charged on Sunday with murder in a 1986 machine gun attack on an Israeli bus. The court formally charged Mahmud Atta with opening fire on a bus carrying Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank. The driver was killed and a passenger wounded. Mr. Atta, 37, also known as Mahmoud Abed Ahmed, pleaded not guilty. His lawyer, Leah Tsemel, said she said that prosecutors presented the charges before a three-judge panel and that Mr. Atta could be sentenced to life if found guilty. Mr. Atta, an American citizen, was arrested by U.S. authorities in 1987. Last August the U.S. supreme court rejected his final appeal against extradition. He has been in Israeli police custody since. Two of Mr. Atta's cousins were convicted of taking part in the attack and were given life sentences.

King

(Continued from page 1)

an iota in that particular regard," the King said.

liberating all the Muslim holy places."

The newspaper repeated Iraq's threat to attack the interests of nations participating in the U.S.-led multinational force.

If anything, he said, "we want Bush to millions of volunteers ... including Iraqi living outside... who want to join the allied forces and fight."

"We are confident of victory in the war," he said. "The morale of the Iraqi people is high... the will of the Iraqi people is strong and we have accepted this challenge," he said.

Baghdad Radio also said the United States was withholding information on casualties sustained by its forces in the Gulf.

"Scores of planes are being downed in flames and scores of American and Atlantic pilots are either being killed, captured, or missing. However, the American people know nothing about this," the radio said.

Hammadi

(Continued from page 1)

Lebanon, but he rejected any American involvement in the process.

Dr. Hammadi, a member of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq, said he discussed with King Hussein the latest developments in the Gulf war and "conveyed Iraq's views and assessment of the situation."

Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Lugar were questioned by Brinkley after the interview with King Hussein.

Secretary Baker told CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" programme that Washington was disappointed by King Hussein's statements, but sought to preserve U.S.-Jordanian relations.

"There is no, right now, attractive alternative to that regime, and we've said that for a long time," Mr. Baker said. "Clearly, he's got some extraordinary pressures on him domestically, we understand that, but that doesn't make it any easier when he speaks in the tone and the way he did in that particular speech."

King Hussein said in Sunday's interview Arabs were worried about the meaning of the "new world order" that many observers have said the Gulf war will herald.

"We're very confused about what we feel is special attention paid to one problem and the lack of it on another, not that we have any doubt that the Kuwaiti problem, the Iraqi problem had precedence since it came about the way it did," the King said. "But we need the linkage with something else. We need to know exactly where we are going. We need a commitment to resolve other problems. We need a dialogue."

King Hussein said on reports that Jordan had violated a U.N. embargo on shipments of arms and other material to Iraq were "totally untrue."

"Unfortunately, we don't have the luxury of having so many PR firms to put our case across in Washington or in the United States," the King said.

He said the diplomatic rift with Washington has hurt Jordanians. "Our relationship was not based on material considerations," King Hussein said. "We are facing enormous difficulties, but we are not that cheap. And believe me, we are proud to be friends of friends who treat us with mutual respect and who seek to be our friends, and we will be there as always."

"And I hope that all of this will be behind us some day, and I hope for peace in this region and for stability in this region."

Velayati

(Continued from page 1)

serious effects of the economic embargo would have manifested themselves," he added.

An envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is expected in Baghdad in the next 24 hours carrying a warning of grave consequences if Iraq fails to withdraw from Kuwait, Arab diplomats said Sunday.

They said Mr. Gorbachev's Gulf envoy, Yevgeny Primakov, would not be carrying any initiative.

Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

their agents such as Fahd, Hosni and some of the treacherous and cowardly rulers in the region — this would impair Iraq's right to its territorial integrity that extends from Zakho (close to Turkey) to Kuwait, or its legitimate Pan-Arab role of liberating the people and land of Palestine and

Iranian positions.

"We are prepared for a protracted war," he said. "And we are ready to continue fighting until final victory regardless of the sacrifices involved."

He also called for a united Islamic front against the U.S.-led coalition saying that joining Iraq "is taking sides between right and wrong, Muslims and Infidels, revolutionaries and reactionaries."

The Non-Aligned Movement, whose ministers are meeting this week, Dr. Hammadi said, "could call for an end to the war and a peaceful settlement on the basis of the principles of the United Nations" and should also denounce the allied assault on civilians and civilian installations in Iraq.

Dr. Hammadi rejected Western media suggestions that the morale of the Iraqi army was running low after being subjected to the heaviest air assault in history with some of the most sophisticated weapons ever created and there had been mass deser-

tions from the armed forces.

"I want to categorically deny the reports," he said. "There could be a few isolated incidents (of desertions), and perhaps one should also look at the other side (for desertions)."

If anything, he said, "we have millions of volunteers ... including Iraqi living outside... who want to join the allied forces and fight."

"We are confident of victory in the war," he said. "The morale of the Iraqi people is high... the will of the Iraqi people is strong and we have accepted this challenge," he said.

The aggressor will not go unpunished," he vowed. "We are in agreement (with the allied forces) that the war will be very long..."

He also warned that relations between the U.S. and the Arab World "will not be restored for centuries and those countries (America's partners in the coalition) will remain out of the region for ever."

Dr. Hammadi, who served as speaker of the Iraqi parliament before being named deputy prime minister, said the aerial assaults had caused "thousands of civilian casualties." It was the first official Iraqi acknowledgement of massive civilian casualties since the war began. War communiques have put the figure around 600.

"The aggression is now directed towards widespread destruction of civilian targets and the Iraqi people," he said.

He supported his argument with two examples. In an open desert stretch between Najaf and Karbala, a group of shepherds tending their cattle was "massacred" in air attacks. At least 32 shepherds were killed and the cattle was totally wiped out, he said.

Dr. Hammadi also cited repeated attacks on the Al Jourmouya bridge across the Tigris River in Baghdad. The allied forces completed wrecking the bridge on Friday. Dr. Hammadi said that the bridge was "a civilian bridge with no military justification."

Dr. Hammadi, who later flew to Libya on the first leg of a North African tour, said his talks with Arab leaders were aimed at explaining the destructive nature of the allied war on Iraq away from the goal of "liberating" Kuwait and to solicit support for Baghdad.

Directly referring to Egypt and Syria — two of America's staunchest Arab allies in the coalition — Dr. Hammadi said: "The voice of the Arab masses in support of Iraq is not heard since they live under pressure and have no means to express it."

In general, "it will take some time to (mobilise) the Arab masses who are on the side of Iraq," he said. "They have no reason to recognise the Security Council resolutions which are aimed at the destruction of another Arab country. They should be able to pressure their governments into taking diplomatic action," he asked.

Dr. Hammadi called on Arab countries to extend support for Iraq by severing diplomatic relations with Washington and its allies in the anti-Iraq coalition.

The least that Arab countries can do at a political level is to boycott diplomatically all countries of the imperialist and neo-colonialist world through the banner of the anti-Zionist Atlantic (NATO) "Zionist aggression..." Dr. Hammadi told the press conference, the first held by a senior Iraqi official outside Baghdad after the allied forces started war on Jan. 17.

Bahrain severed diplomatic relations with the U.S. and its main partners in the coalition — Britain, Italy, France, Egypt and Saudi Arabia — last week.

Most of Dr. Hammadi's comments during the two-hour press conference on Sunday were reaffirmation and reiteration of known Iraqi positions.

He carefully avoided direct answers to key self questions related to Iraqi-Israeli contacts and to the mysterious flight to Iran of over 100 Iraqi warplanes representing the cream of the country's air force.

Although he declined comment on what the strategy was behind the moving of warplanes to Iran saying it was a "military matter," he implied that they could be used at a later stage in the war.

"We are prepared for a protracted war," he said. "And we are ready to continue fighting until final victory regardless of the sacrifices involved."

He also called for a united Islamic front against the U.S.-led coalition saying that joining Iraq "is taking sides between right and wrong, Muslims and Infidels, revolutionaries and reactionaries."

However, he said, "we respect the media and press, and before (the outbreak of the war) as well as during the war we have done this and will continue to do so."

In reply to a question on reports that Iraq had denied the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to captured allied airmen, Iraq's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Said Al Shahab told the press conference that an ICRC team was already in Baghdad. Mr. Shahab accused the allies of ignoring and violating Geneva conventions, and said: "When they start respecting the Geneva conventions, we will also do so."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR



Queen Noor hears a briefing about a water project in Deir Alla (Petra photo)



Her Majesty inquires about living conditions from local inhabitants (Petra photo)

Queen inspects service centres and projects in Jordan Valley

DEIR ALLA (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday toured the Jordan Valley region, visiting the rural areas and listening to officials outlining projects, the agricultural situation and service centres for the local population.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Wishah, secretary-general of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), presented a briefing to the Queen about the region's general economic and social development, and accompanied the Queen on a tour of the Deir Alla water project which provides drinking water to the Balqa, Amman, and Zarqa governorates.

The Queen met with directors of departments of agriculture and heads of municipal and village

councils and also with housewives and farmers, hearing their requests and their problems.

The Queen was informed about the problems facing the local community and the shortage in social services from the Deir Alla mayor and local notables.

Accompanied by officials, the Queen later toured villages along the northern and western regions of the valley and visited one of the local households, learning about the family's living, health, and social conditions.

The health centre at M'addi was the next leg of the Queen's tour where she was told that 30,000 inhabitants benefit from the centre's services.

The Queen examined the emergency preparations and the

plans taken by the health ministry and civil defence.

Among the other places visited by the Queen was a children's nursery and a nearby charity bazaar which displayed local crafts. The Queen presented the centre with furniture and children's toys and books to be used by the nursery, and the JVA promised to make available a piece of land to the local Jordan Valley Women's Society.

The Queen also toured two model farms producing cucumbers and strawberries and was briefed on modern techniques being followed in farming and vegetable production.

The Civil Service Consumer Corporation (NSCC) director general, Inaaq Al Mufti, who accompanied the

Queen on the tour, said that the NHF will take the proper procedures aimed at introducing improvements to the standard of living of the local people in the area a move that is hoped to contribute towards the overall socio-economic development of the country.

General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) president, Abdullah Al Khatib, who was present, said that GUVS was offering a donation of JD 4,300 in the name of Queen Noor to buy food supplies and clothing for the needy families in the Jordan Valley region.

The Civil Service Consumer Corporation (NSCC) also announced its contribution of food supplies for the poor families.

EC grants \$45.5m to Palestinians in occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) has decided to allocate a grant of \$45.5 million for the Palestinian population in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories according to an announcement here by EC ambassador to Jordan, Christian Falkowski.

The ambassador said that the aid will be used for the purchase of 26,300 tons of wheat, 4,600 tons of milk powder, 3,100 tons sugar and 1,700 tons of vegetable oil and nearly \$8 million will be utilised for the purchase of other products and to cover the transport costs of this aid.

The aid is geared to cover the food requirements of the Palestinians stemming from the difficulties of supply and realising the considerably reduced income for the Palestinians as a consequence of the curfew, and will be distributed through UNRWA, Falkowski noted.

He said the Commission has decided as well to provide \$1.4 million as medical emergency aid for the Palestinian population living in South Lebanon. This aid will be implemented through Médecins du Monde and Médecins sans Frontières for the supply of medicaments, equipment and medical personnel to meet the urgent needs of the Palestinian population living in South Lebanon.

The European Commission had already provided \$6.2 million to finance the operating costs of Palestinian hospitals in the occupied territories for the coming six months. This aid is filling the gap which had been left by the withdrawal of financial support of traditional sponsors affected by the Gulf crisis as well.

House refers 29 requests to government

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday approved two bills and referred 29 requests from various deputies to the government to consider. The two bills contained minor amendments to standing laws.

The requests included demands by various deputies for increased government services for their constituencies. One deputy, Faisal Al Jazi, from the South Bedouin asked that his hometown of Al Husseini be administratively upgraded and provided with an office for family affairs, a rural development centre, a veterinary clinic, a department of lands and surveys, a courthouse, a water authority office, an electricity authority office and housing units for the tribes of Tagaqah and Nowjrah.

The world seems totally oblivious of the fact that this unprecedented destruction of the cultural treasures of Iraq by cruise missiles and B52 bombers is continuing unabated.

The destruction, which means the loss of these treasures that relate human culture, has no parallel in world history even under the Nazis who invaded Paris in the Second World War, avoiding the city's cultural centres.

Earlier in the session, the House reviewed a letter from the Ministry of Planning detailing the history of the Private Enterprise and Technical Resources Assist-



protest against and destruction of cultural sites in Iraq (Petra photo)

Artists, writers demand halt to destruction of Iraqi culture

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian artists, intellectuals, writers, musicians, journalists and poets marched in Amman Sunday in a show of protest against the ongoing aggression on Iraq and demanding that the world community stop the war which has killed civilian people and destroyed cultural centres.

The marchers, carrying posters condemning the U.S.-led aggression, handed the U.N. resident representative here, Ali Atiq, a note addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General to stop the brutal aggression.

The marchers, who walked from the Professional Association Complex to the U.N. office in Simeisani, called on the United Nations to shoulder its historic responsibility by acting to arrest the destruction of the cultural heritage in Iraq and the killing of the civilian population.

"We rely on the awareness of the world organisation to stop this vicious conquest and its sinister aims of shaking the foundation of the great human house and land of people and reversing the march of civilisation for the benefit of colonial hegemony," aid the note.

The note pointed out that facets of civilisation are being deliberately and brutally destroyed in Iraq, and it is the duty of good men everywhere to work amnesty to stop this horrible evocation."

President of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), Hashem Iressat, told the Jordan Times that the U.S. and its allies are committing a barbaric act in Iraq against humankind at large. Iressat, who took part in the march appealed to the world intellectuals to stop the massacre committed by the war criminals who mock human civilization and culture.

Among the marchers were alight Jamal Naji, artist Ahmad Taha Barakat, librarian

Yousef Qandeel and poet Abdul Rahim Omar who presented the memorandum to Atiq on behalf of the marchers.

For his part, Atiq said that the devastating war on Iraq was not a United Nations war on the Arab country, and that the world community has failed in its duty to implement U.N. resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Following the march, the "Save the Cultural Heritage in Iraq Committee," which organised the protest, distributed the following appeal:

APPEAL

To all cultural organisations in the world including writers, poets, playwrights, musicians, journalists, librarians as well as university professors, architects, plastic artists, and all concerned persons and those who have deep responsibilities for the protection of human culture throughout history.

The Iraqi cultural sites including those in Baghdad, Ninva, Babylon, Najaf and the rest of the archaeological and historical treasures are now exposed to a brutal and inhuman bombardment on the part of the U.S.-led military coalition in the Gulf.

The great heritage of Iraq along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is not the sole ownership of Iraq but it is rather the property of the whole human family and mankind.

The world seems totally oblivious of the fact that this unprecedented destruction of the cultural treasures of Iraq by cruise missiles and B52 bombers is continuing unabated.

The destruction, which means the loss of these treasures that relate human culture, has no parallel in world history even under the Nazis who invaded Paris in the Second World War, avoiding the city's cultural centres.

Earlier in the session, the House reviewed a letter from the Ministry of Planning detailing the history of the Private Enterprise and Technical Resources Assist-

their nations are actively involved in this alliance, waging aggression on Iraq and its great cultural heritage.

Jordanian intellectuals appeal to all lovers and advocates of human culture to raise their voices and call for an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf and a halt to all the terrible destruction of cultural sites which had survived for more than 7,000 years under the Assyrians, Chaldeans, Accadians and others, and have been preserved by the Iraqi people throughout the years.

We look to all world intellectuals as a highly influential power, calling on them to organise an international campaign for saving the Iraqi cultural heritage before it is too late, and before the destruction of the treasure becomes a lasting reality.

HOUSE REFERS 29 REQUESTS TO GOVERNMENT

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Parliamentarians explain dangers

Cypriot minister esteems peaceful role of Jordan on Gulf, Palestine

AMMAN (J.T.) — The foreign minister of Cyprus, George Iacovou, Sunday voiced his government's appreciation of the endeavours being exerted by His Majesty King Hussein to help bring about peace in the Gulf and said that non-aligned nations and Cyprus hope that the Palestine and the Gulf questions can be settled by peaceful means.

"We feel that Jordan is going through very difficult circumstances because of the war in the Gulf," the minister said at a meeting with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdal Latif Arabyat.

"The fact that Jordan is not represented in the upcoming Belgrade meeting of non-aligned countries' foreign ministers prompted me to come to Amman and learn about Jordan's views with regard to the Gulf crisis specially since King Hussein has been playing a peaceful role from the start," the Cypriot foreign minister said.

Lawzi for his part said that Jordan seeks peace and the implementation of international legitimacy to settle all problems.

"The absence of justice and a just solution for the Palestine problem have exposed the Middle East to continued tension and wars," Lawzi said at the meeting which was attended by deputies and a number of officials.

For his part, Arabyat pointed to the dangers inherent in the continuing aggression on Iraq and the destruction of the Iraqi people and their cultural and economic infrastructure. Arabyat also noted that the allied forces have been waging an economic war on Jordan and trying to mar the Kingdom's image as a neutral

state seeking a peaceful and just solution to the Gulf issue.

The House speaker urged Cyprus to play an effective role in the Belgrade meeting to end the war, and urged the foreign minister to convey to his government Jordan's desire to maintain very strong ties of cooperation and friendship with the Cypriot people.

Iacovou Sunday met with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament and said that his country backs the idea of an international conference for a just peace in the Middle East.

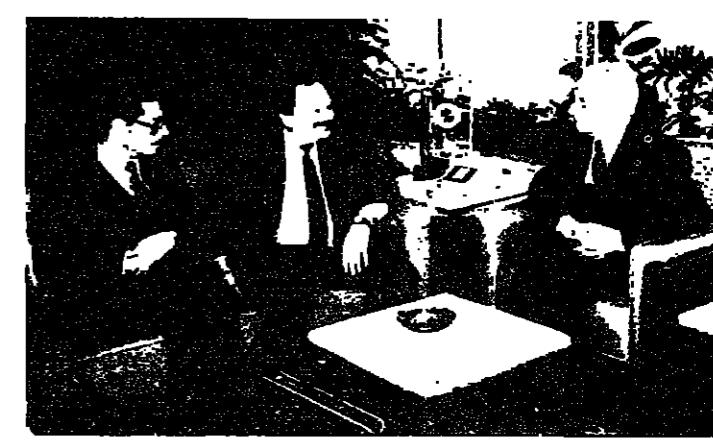
He said that was can achieve no solution but can rather result in further destruction and more suffering for innocent people.

"Cyprus has always expressed its full support for the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their legitimate rights in Palestine," the foreign minister said.

Lawzi for his part said that Jordan seeks peace and the implementation of international legitimacy to settle all problems.

"The absence of justice and a just solution for the Palestine problem have exposed the Middle East to continued tension and wars," Lawzi said at the meeting which was attended by House members.

He said that the Non-Aligned Movement can play an effective role in bringing about peace and in ending the aggression on Iraq.



Symposium on water, air pollution opens Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — A symposium on the dangers facing the environment as a result of the Gulf war and oil slicks will open at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman Wednesday during which three main working papers on these topics will be reviewed by specialists.

Representatives of the Jordanian Society for the Protection of the Environment from Pollution, concerned government ministries and organisations will take part in the meeting, which will be chaired by the society's president Ahmad Obaidat.

Dr. Abdullah Touqan, president of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, will submit a working paper dealing with the serious effects of burning oil on the climate and water.

Engineer Abdul Hay Salloum will present a paper on oil econo-

mics and Dr. Murad Bino will submit a research paper on water pollution and dangers to water animals, while engineer Munir Adgham will discuss a national programme for increasing awareness of the pollution of the environment.

The symposium was prompted by the ongoing aggression on Iraq which has caused heavy pollution to the sea water and the atmosphere. Latest reports from the Gulf said that at least 500 million gallons of oil have been split into the sea following the allied air raids on Kuwaiti oil fields. The oil slick has forced Saudi Arabia to shut down one of its desalination plants and announce that it might have to ration drinking water.

Saudi Arabia gets two thirds of its water from desalination plants, half of it from the one of

these and Dr. Touqan told the Jordan Times recently that the oil slick in the northern Gulf region cannot be easily stopped. He said that the burning of the oil slick makes the cleaning procedure much harder and puts forward the question of how easily it is to put out a blaze of such magnitude.

These and other related topics will be dealt with at the symposium on Wednesday according to a society official.

The society, formed three years ago to help spread awareness among Jordanians about the need to protect the environment, groups 500 members of engineers, experts, and other personalities interested in or with knowledge of means of combatting pollution.

Bishop assails U.S., U.N.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Bishop Elia Khouri Sunday criticised the United Nations Security Council, saying that it has become an obedient tool in the hands of criminal America and its arrogant and inhuman president.

In a Sunday sermon, which he delivered at the Anglican Church in Amman, Khouri said the U.N. Security Council resolutions, which President Bush has confiscated without any just grounds, do not allow the American-led alliance to bombard the Iraqi cities and towns, because these places are not Kuwait.

Khouri called on Arab countries, which call themselves the "steadfastness and confrontation countries" to live up to their responsibilities and to realise that the Arab and Islamic nations are targets for the hostilities currently being launched against Iraq.

He called on them to stand by Iraq in its heroic struggle to repulse the U.S.-led aggression against the Iraqi people.

The American aggression against Iraq has exposed the forces of Infidels, atheism and brutality, and have drawn a divisive line between those and the forces of faith and humanity, Khouri stressed.

He emphasised that adherence to righteousness, justice and peace means obeying God's will and deviation from this path means failure to obey God and to serve humanity.

Those who deviate from righteousness and justice and disobey the will of God will not escape the punishment of God, and the faithful, Khouri noted.

He added that Arab Muslims and Christians have affine faith in God, and would not be shaken by the forces of evil and injustice.

Khouri praised the steadfastness of the kinsmen in the occupied Arab territories, who held in the face of the fiercest Israeli measures against them.

He also said that forces of evil in the East and West have so far shown that the aim of the war was not to liberate Kuwait or to defend Saudi Arabia but to destroy the Iraqi power. Kuwait's liberation was only a pretext.

The communiqué also rejected the U.S. call for establishing the so-called "new world order," which is primarily aimed at dominating the region and controlling the future of the Third World nations.

Both Houses said that the course of events in the war has so far shown that the aim of the war was not to liberate Kuwait or to defend Saudi Arabia but to destroy the Iraqi power. Kuwait's liberation was only a pretext. The communiqué also called on all Arab and Muslim nations and the Non-Aligned Movement to reject the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 678, because the USA and its allies have taken these resolutions as a cover for attacking the Iraqi people, and destroying its economic, cultural, and scientific infrastructure.

He called on Arabs to cling to their rights and to stand by their Iraqi brethren in fighting the American and Western and all other forces of evil.

The march, which is organised by popular forces in Karak Governorate will start after the noon prayer from Mashhad at Mutah and end in Mazar.

INVITATION
To all news correspondents, representatives of local and foreign media to join in and cover our march, which will be held Tuesday Feb. 12 at Karak Governorate, as a gesture of support for Iraq.

The march, which is organised by popular forces in Karak Governorate will start after the noon prayer from Mashhad at Mutah and end in Mazar.

Artists exhibit works at Shoman Foundation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Over 35 Jordanian artists have contributed a number of their works for an exhibition which was opened Sunday at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation gallery.

Proceeds from the exhibition which runs through Feb. 25, 1991, will go towards assisting Arab civilian victims of the war in the Gulf.

House

(Continued from page 1)

harm to the country's security. He also said that a certain group, which he did not name, had infiltrated the ranks of innocent protesters.

Deputy Theeb Marji, who said he was in Ramtha during the trouble, described the National Bloc's statement as "misleading." He said he did not agree with the bloc's charge that "dirty hands, plots and planted elements" were behind the events.

"I demand that security forces and the media expose the facts. If anybody is trying to endanger the security of the country, he should be executed."

Deputies Faris Nabulsi agreed with Mr. Marji and Mr. Zou'bi and described the National Bloc's statement as "irresponsible."

Deputy Qaseem Obeidat defended the bloc's statement and said some elements were demanding that Jordan's border with Syria and Saudi Arabia be closed.

He said that on Saturday there were demands for the opening of a war front with Israel.

Mr. Obeidat said he felt there was an intention to "sabotage the country from within."

At this point the prime minister intervened. He said he was at a loss how to "explain the real picture." He indicated that deputies on both sides of the divide did not know what was really happening. Some know some angle of the story, others know other angles, he said. "I have the full picture," he then asked for the closed session.

Reports

(Continued from page 1)

Publishing such allegations at this particular moment without reference to the facts prompts one to conclude that the allegations are designed to mislead public opinion about Jordan's stand," the Jordanian official said in Amman.

He said that this hostile campaign on Jordan can best be countered by the publication of the facts related to these allegations.

Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

It was the first time the Iraqi president had made broadcast comments since an interview by Peter Arnett of the U.S.-based Cable News Network (CNN) two weeks ago.

INA said President Saddam reaffirmed that the Iraqis, "each passing hour and day become more firm in what they believe, and they shine out more in front of the whole world."

"Iraq is not ready to relinquish the role given to it by God," the president said.

"All the good people will be victorious as Iraq, and victory will restore to the Iraqis all the requirements for a free and honourable living that they will merit as a reward for their patience and steadfastness," the news agency said.

The speech ran about 20 minutes.

President Saddam said Mr. Bush had lost his credibility when he "lost the power of conviction and the God-given power of dialogue."

He said "all of America's financial, military and economic power is not sufficient to fight the fortress of faith in Iraq."

President Saddam appealed to others to join forces with Iraq.

By Saeda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In response to a question "why Islam after all?" one Islamic writer said: "it is the religion under the wing of which people in our kind of societies can be both moral and creative. Hence it becomes imperative that we should find Islamic solutions to our social and political problems. For we have already seen what is happening to those who believed the West when it urged them to "follow us and your problems will be solved. They have now come to discover that the West was not sincere in its claim and that heeding that Western call proved, in many ways, to be disastrous."

Abiding by the Koranic verse, "among thee Muslims must a party, or association or group emanate which carries the Islamic call (da'wa) to all peoples asking them to apply Islamic principles and avoiding Islamic taboos; this group will be victorious." Each Islamic movement considers its establishment as essential as well as a duty to spread the Islamic principles to all people.

Because of different interpretations, however, each movement claims to be the best representatives of Islamic tenets. While these movements' popularity and means to achieve their aims vary, their funding also diverse, they all agree upon the necessity of setting up an Islamic state, the implementation of Sharia, and the liberation of Palestine and other Arab and Muslim occupied territories.

Jihad, the ultimate of Islamic beliefs, is one of the most solid bases that Islamic movements rely on in their resurgence in the Muslim World. The most important amongst their objectives were deeply influenced by the Palestine issue and the aim of creating an Islamic state that would implement Sharia in all aspects of a Muslim's life.

The popularity of Islamic movements has surged in recent years. Their followers, identified primarily in women wearing hijab and men wearing beards, are on the increase. Their movements' popularity is attributed to many factors. In addition to the failure of the secular state to address Muslims' hidden day problems, the success of Iran's Islamic revolution in toppling the pro-West regime of Shah Reza Pahlavi, of the Afghan Mujahideen in resisting Soviet occupation, of the Hamas movement in resisting Israeli occupation, and successful publicity campaigns, made these movements all the more powerful. But perhaps the most important factor of all is that Islam as a faith is ingrained in every Muslim's psyche.

Muslim Brotherhood

One of the earliest movements in modern Arab and Muslim history, the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, was founded in Ismailia in Egypt in 1928, by Hassan Al Banna.

The Brotherhood's emergence came as a result of the "political and ideological vacuum" Islamic countries suffered from following the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire, the last Islamic state, in 1924, and the Arab World's fall under Western occupation. Al Banna, an Islamic reformer, received one day six visitors who pledged loyalty to him and asked him to save their

country from disintegration and disunity. The six, including two brothers, and Banna, having developed strong relations based on the principles of Islam, settled at the end of their meeting to call themselves "The Muslim Brotherhood."

The Muslim Brotherhood put all its efforts into spreading the Islamic call among the Egyptian people. In 1939, it had gained popularity in all parts of the country as a direct result of increased publicity. A number of magazines and newspapers it issued contributed to highlighting the group's main objectives and succeeded in formulating an Islamic public opinion.

Throughout their history in Egypt and later in other Arab and Islamic countries, the movement's members suffered persecution and imprisonment. Some were sentenced to death. According to the movement, the revolutionary government of Jamal Abdul Nasser arrested and banished thousands of its members accusing them of attempting to topple Nasser and kill him. In 1954, Egyptian military courts convicted six of its members and sentenced them to death. All six were executed.

The movement's influence was not restricted to Egypt, it spread to most Arab countries after 1945 among which were Syria, Palestine, Sudan as well as Jordan.

Abdul Latif Abu Qurah headed the movement in Jordan which was founded on Nov. 19, 1945. In 1953, Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifa was elected as its leader.

At an Islamic conference that was held in Jerusalem the same year, it was decided to establish a central office for the movement. The main mission of this Jerusalem-based bureau was to explain the Palestinian cause to all peoples and leaders of the Islamic World.

The Brotherhood's main objective is to implement Islamic law (Sharia) in all aspects of life. Its members consider armed struggle (Jihad) as the only means to realize their objectives. However, because of a crackdown on the movement and the execution of several of its members in Egypt, the movement changed strategy and shifted from armed struggle to religious and political reforms.

According to the movement's leaders, it concentrates on creating, as a first step, a Muslim generation that fully comprehends and adheres to Islamic principles. This is achieved, according to the movement, by first reforming the individual, then the family and consequently the Muslim people at large. This would eventually lead to the establishment of an Islamic government that would take on the responsibility of applying Sharia.

While some analysts say that the Muslim Brotherhood received donations and financial aid from some governments such as Saudi Arabia or even the U.S., Brotherhood leaders maintain they receive no financial aid from any government. The movement's expenses, they say, are covered by donations from members, followers and by the income it generates by investing in a number of income-generating, profit-making projects. The movement's leaders consider this as a source of pride and dignity. They say the movement has the highest number of adherents and followers of all Islamic movements in Jordan.

Islamic Liberation Party (Al Tahrir)

The Islamic Liberation Party was founded in Jerusalem in 1952 by Sheikh Taqfi Eddin al Nabaani, a judge and politician. At that time the party formally presented itself to the Ministry of Interior asking for permission to register as a political party. The demand was rejected on the basis that the

implemented throughout the Muslim World and must be spread consequently to all other parts of the world.

Unlike the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, the Liberation Party was completely banned and its activities were restricted. It therefore relied on secret pamphlets to convey its message to the public.

mic call) by way of preaching or applying Islam gradually or even taking it as a belief are not committed to Islamic orders. And our party preaches to them and tries to convince them to correct their methods."

The party's main objective is the establishment of Islamic law in the Muslim nation. This should be carried out, according to the

Jihad — the road to utopia

By Saeda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

WHILE the Gulf war has brought about many economic losses to the people of Jordan it has, nevertheless, strengthened Islamic movements in the country and contributed to the unification of different ideologies under the banner of Jihad.

Jihad (holy war), which for long inspired Muslims as well as Arabs in their conflicts with outside invaders has now taken a stronger hold thanks to the support it received from a powerful Arab leader, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and backing of Islamic movements.

"No matter how blasphemous a Muslim is, he will defend Islam in face of attackers," declares an Islamist leader who preferred anonymity. "There will always lurk in him a spark of faith and an internal belief which neither the West nor an outsider's will will be able to eradicate."

Basically an Islamic notion, Jihad has a deeply spiritual significance that is linked to the history, tradition and culture of the Arab people. In its application to martyrdom, the word brings "glorious" and "prestigious" feeling to the martyr's family and an outstanding zeal to those who are willing to sacrifice their souls for the sake of God.

"The main difference between the West and us is that we head towards Jihad willingly with an open spirit and a martyrdom notion," points out Hassan Al Tal, chief editor of Al Liwa newspaper, "contrary to the West which not only prefers not to go to war, but also not to die," he said emphasising that Jihad is the wish and objective of every Muslim.

People with strong Islamic conviction believe that the solution to their present problems lies in liberating occupied Arab territories by way of Jihad, and thus by returning to Islam. Their loss of faith in the existing regimes and what they consider as the

phase of decadence from which the Muslim umma (nation) is suffering have also contributed to the reinforcement of Jihad's significance.

An Algerian Islamist writer maintains that the rising tide towards the adoption of Islam is attributed to the Muslim nation's loss of confidence in the political, economic and social solutions "imported" from "capitalist and socialist" countries. He also points to the tendency among Muslim youth to search for solutions for their spiritual problems. "Islam can restore to them their lost identity, dignity and self assurance, and provide solutions for their present problems; unimported solutions that have their roots in the realities of their own situation."

Thus, "Islam is the solution" and "Jihad is the mean" comes as the saviour flashing in the horizon for many in their efforts to overcome their present hardships: be they economic, political or spiritual. On the political level, this is evidently manifested in the Islamic movements' persistent efforts to carry banners calling the liberation of the occupied territories, especially Palestine, in their call for Jihad.

Several calls were launched by Islamic leaders following the eruption of the Gulf crisis and President Saddam Hussein's calls for Jihad.

The main resolutions adopted by a meeting in Libya of Islamic leaders is a call for a unified stand against foreign troops in the Gulf. Iraq's withdrawal was conditioned with a simultaneous withdrawal of all troops in the Gulf and their replacement with Islamic and Arab troops. Proposals included ones for demonstrations during the month of Islamic pilgrimage this year as a reaction to this violent aggression on the holy shrines. Another call for Jihad was issued by Sheikh Asaad Bayoudh Al Tamimi, the leader of the Islamic Jihad

Movement (Beit al Magdes) with demands on the Jordanian government to arm the people. "Liberating occupied territories are an essential part in our programme," says Abdul Rahman Khalifa, leader of Muslim Brotherhood Movement, "according to Islam, if an enemy trespasses a minor part of Islamic territory Jihad becomes an obligation on every Muslim (men, women)."

With the same connotation and citing the same saying of Prophet Mohammad, the Islamic Liberation Party insists on the importance of Jihad. Al Tahrir Party's position towards Israeli occupation of Palestine and towards the new crusade invasion of the Arabian Peninsula is embodied in Islamic teachings. If infidels or an enemy occupies a span of Islamic land then Jihad will be a must for Muslims," points out Ata Abu Rishieh.

In a previous interview with Agence France Press, Leith Sbeihat, an Islamist deputy, confirmed that Islamic deputies support Iraq almost unanimously. He also demanded the government to arm every city and every village.

According to Islamic leaders, the call for Jihad at present has helped erase differences among Islamic movements. They are all now aiming at one particular objective that would help establishing the Islamic state, many said.

"Differences in opinion must not generate dispute, Khalifa says. "Islamic movements are already united in their objective and efforts to rescue the nation."

"There are many differences among Islamic movements," Ayda Abdullah, a representative of a Sufism movement — Dar Al Quran. "But for us, we stand behind Saddam, because standing with an Arab leader is better than standing with the Americans."

movement, by following the Prophet's example. That is, the party's method of applying Islam passes through three stages.

The first one is the informative phase, which means finding people who believe in and adhere to the party's principles. The second phase is that of interaction with the nation to adopt the party's principles as the nation's cause. The final phase is characterised

by taking power and the implementation of Islam comprehensively and generally and to pass its message to the world.

To Tahrir Palestine was not viewed as an ordinary Islamic country; it was a sacred entity so most of the party's efforts were directed towards its liberation and the establishment of an Islamic state.

The party claims that several of its members were arrested and are still in prison despite the release of many political prisoners since November 1989, when the country held its first elections and the commencement of the democratic process in Jordan.

**Islamic Jihad Movement —
Beit al Magdes**

The Islamic Jihad Movement was created for the sole objective of liberating occupied Palestine. It was established in 1980 by Sheikh Assad Bayoudh Al Tamimi who had "put all his efforts into establishing a combat movement that would lead Muslims to liberate the sacred places by founding the Islamic Jihad Movement in 1980."

Sheikh Tamimi claims responsibility for starting the Palestinian uprising (intifada) in 1987. Some Islamic Jihad's youths, according to the group, escaped from Israeli prisons in the occupied Gaza Strip and were engaged in al Shujaieh battle where several Israeli officials and soldiers were killed. The killing of four members of the movement led to a general strike which led to the eruption of the intifada.

Because of different interpretations, however, each movement claims to be the best representatives of Islamic tenets. While these movements' popularity and means to achieve their aims vary, their funding also diverse, they all agree upon the necessity of setting up an Islamic state, the implementation of Sharia, and the liberation of Palestine and other Arab and Muslim occupied territories.

In 1989, the movement added "Beit al Magdes" to its name in order to be able to differentiate between itself and other movements of the same name. It has chosen "Beit al Magdes" on the basis that Jerusalem is to be the Islamic capital after liberation.

"We will follow a political line that would have a say in the nation's affairs," Qerrash says. "This new Islamist party will learn from other Islamic movements' mistakes." Qerrash explains that there are many contradictions between what Islamic movements preach and what they do. "Other parties keep calling for democracy and they are more dictatorial in their policies than many regimes. Members and followers would not dare say a word against their leaders."

This new party will be supervised by a group of scientists and a committee of Islamic guardians from outside the party itself. Their role would be the total supervision of their party's leaders and presenting a regular assessment of the party's achievements as well as any possible misconduct. This is considered by Qerrash as an "Islamic basis that would be directly related to the individual and the nation's interest." In this way, everyone will be assured that there will be no bias or dominance, something which will eventually lead to the disappearance of corruption and of opportunist leaders.

The New Islamic Party was expected to be established following the publication of the National Charter.

earlier and best known Sufi movements in Jordan otherwise known as the Chadhileh Movement. Established in 1964 by Sheikh Hazim Abu Ghazaleh, it considers itself an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement.

The movement's main objective is to prepare the mureed (someone who seeks knowledge of God through Sun methods), for Jihad. The movement has been a school for many Muslim leaders in Jordan including two Islamic deputies, Leith Sbeihat and Ya'qoub Qerrash.

The movement relies on private lessons and teachings that it holds in mosques and in homes. They do not carry out any particular operations because they concentrate on educating the Muslim individual and turning him or her into a dedicated Muslim and a mujahid (Islamic fighter). This will lead, according to one member of the movement, to the preparation of the individual to face Jihad with an open mind and spirit and to the triumph of the nation of Islam.

Because the movement does not have an extensive public relations and recruitment programme, its members are only limited to the founders and several others who take lessons and participate in their sessions.

New Islamic Movement

Ya'qoub Qerrash and Leith Sbeihat — Islamist deputies at the Lower House of Parliament and both disciples of Dar al Quran aim to establish a new

Islamic movement that would blend Muslim ideology with modern scientific methods, and the application of Islam on a more solid basis.

"We will follow a political line that would have a say in the nation's affairs," Qerrash says.

"This new Islamist party will learn from other Islamic movements' mistakes." Qerrash explains that there are many contradictions between what Islamic movements preach and what they do. "Other parties keep calling for democracy and they are more dictatorial in their policies than many regimes. Members and followers would not dare say a word against their leaders."

Accordingly, Sheikh Tamimi and his three sons, who are the leaders of the movement, direct their operations through contacts in countries surrounding Israel, as well as in Palestine. Tamimi claims to have become the symbol of Jihad and a "wanted dangerous man" by the occupying forces.

The movement bases its relations with other countries, organisations and movements on the principles of Islam. The main objective of this movement is the "establishment of God's law on earth and the liberation of the holy land from the Jews."

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Match leaves no doubt that Leonard will retire

Norris beats Leonard

NEW YORK (R) — Even if Sugar Ray Leonard's words had left any doubt that he would retire from boxing, his performance against Terry Norris Saturday certainly did not.

In Leonard's loss by a unanimous points decision after 12 rounds, one judge failed to give him even one round.

That may have been just desserts for Leonard, who has often received more-than-generous marks from judges in the past, most notably against marvelous Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns.

There is little doubt that Ray Charles Leonard — named after the singer Ray Charles — was one of the greatest fighters ever.

But equally there was no doubt about Leonard's overwhelming defeat while trying to take Norris's World Boxing Council (WBC) super-welterweight title in Madison Square Garden.

Leonard, 34, was slow in getting away from punches and appeared even slower throwing them.

Time and again Leonard would launch a punch and Norris, 23, was not even in the vicinity of the attempted blow by the time its arc was completed.

It must be remembered that Leonard's failures came against a good boxer, not a great one. At the top of his game, Leonard would have taught Norris a lesson.

Several times Leonard, who has retired at least twice in the past, tried to mount his patented end-of-the-round flurries to impress the judges or at least put some doubts in his opponent's mind. He tried some other tricks

too, but to no avail.

Leonard was knocked down twice — once in the second round and again in the seventh.

In the second round, a left hook sent him staggering backward and down to one knee.

Norris rushed over and clubbed Leonard on the head while he was still kneeling and the round ended almost immediately.

Norris dropped Leonard again in the seventh round on a right to the head with about 20 seconds left in the round.

The third and fourth rounds accurately mirrored the course of the rest of the fight.

In the third round, Norris put Leonard up against the ropes with a left-right combination to the head. Then Leonard dropped his arms and appeared to be fading exhaustion.

Norris took the bait this time and came in and Leonard opened up with a brief flurry with surprisingly little power.

Then Norris backed Leonard into the corner, faked a right and, when Leonard flinched, whacked him with a strong left hook.

Leonard came out fast in the fourth round with a flurry of punches including a good combination to the body and the head.

But Norris danced away and Leonard was unable to score effectively again.

Leonard — who won an Olympic gold medal in 1976 and won five world titles in five different weight divisions ranging from welterweight to light-heavyweight in a career that spanned 14 years — began to bleed from his lower lip and looked like an old fighter.

The crowd of about 7,000

chanted "Ray, Ray, Ray" in the ninth round and Leonard, who finishes his career at 36-2-1, even managed to catch Norris with a good left hook.

But by the 12th round, the crowd — sensing it was hopeless for Leonard — switched its chant to "Terry, Terry, Terry."

Immediately after the fight, Leonard looked down at the canvas with a weary, half-smile of acceptance. Then the man who is estimated to have earned about \$110 million in the ring, including about four million Saturday, followed Norris to his corner and patted him on the seat of his

the rest of the fight.

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said Leonard after the fight.

Norris, who is now 27-3 and earned between \$500,000 and \$750,000, was magnanimous in triumph, saying that it was "a sad victory because the way I ended Ray's career. He's my idol."

"Yes, indeed. It turned out to be an easier fight than I thought. I expected Ray to be a little faster," Norris said.

"It just wasn't there," said Leonard, wearing sunglasses which didn't completely hide the swelling under his eyes. "It's time for the young guys to take control of boxing. I have no regrets."

"My son (17-year-old Ray Jr.) told me I was an old man," said Leonard, the famed Leonard footwork and hand speed were not there. Not to be seen were the dazzling combinations, unless you were looking at Norris.

The crowd of about 7,000

said Leonard after the fight.

Norris' four-race total stood at 157-396, another world record. It beat the 1987 total of 159-356 set by Nicolai Guijajev of the Soviet Union.

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J.S. energy official sees slight decline in oil prices after war

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (R) — Oil prices may slip slightly once the Gulf war ends but a steep drop seems unlikely, the number two man at the U.S. Energy Department said at the weekend.

"The price of oil may drop a little bit in euphoria that the war's over," Deputy Energy Secretary Henson Moore said. He told Reuters that oil prices could drop to about \$21 a barrel from \$22.

But Moore, in Florida for a national Association of Manufacturers meeting which ended Saturday, added: "Prices won't stay down very long."

Some industry analysts have forecast a post-war oil surplus could drive prices down below \$15 after the threat of an Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia's oil fields was removed.

Moore said much would depend on how quickly Kuwait and

Iraq could resume production. But, while a sharp price drop could not be ruled out, he said any decline was likely to prove temporary.

Oil demand would pick up as industrial nations came out of recession. At the same time, producers which had stepped up output after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August would cut back, if only to carry out needed maintenance on refineries.

To help keep the oil market calm while the war is on, the Energy Department has set up a war operations room in Washington to gather information and intelligence on Saudi oil supplies.

That information is made available to the market to prevent rumours from whipping prices one way and the other, he said.

The room is manned around the clock, is off limits to most

department personnel and communicates every hour on the hour with the department's own staff in Saudi Arabia.

"We have information before the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)," Moore said.

The department anticipated that Iraq might use a huge oil spill to disrupt U.S. military operations and had explored other actions it might take to damage refineries and oil wells, he said. He declined to elaborate.

In the long term, he saw prices rising slowly and steadily, perhaps by an average five per cent a year after inflation.

To help cope with future oil shocks, the U.S. administration plans to put forward a national energy strategy before the end of the month, seeking to boost energy efficiency standards for cars.

The plan was bound to be opposed by some environmental groups and could run into opposition in Congress but he said the strategy could act as a blueprint for future action.

Nuclear fusion plants would not be viable until 2025. Electric vehicles might not have much of an impact on energy demands until 1997.

"Don't change your plans. If you have modernisation work, go ahead. My estimate is the war will last only for another month and a half at most," the Anatolian News Agency quoted him as saying.

Ozal, who has let U.S. planes raid Iraq from a southern base in Turkey, has skilfully capitalised on his country's revived strategic importance to the West.

TURKISH PRESIDENT Turgut Ozal has predicted the Gulf war will last for six more weeks at most and urged businessmen to prepare for a bright post-war economy.

"Extremely positive business prospects are on the way for Turkey in the Gulf crisis ... as soon as the crisis is over, an incredible economic activity will start," Ozal told a business meeting at the Aegean city of Izmir.

"Don't change your plans. If you have modernisation work, go ahead. My estimate is the war will last only for another month and a half at most," the Anatolian News Agency quoted him as saying.

Ozal, who has let U.S. planes raid Iraq from a southern base in Turkey, has skilfully capitalised on his country's revived strategic importance to the West.

Financial markets have regained confidence following a short-lived panic on the eve of the Gulf war 24 days ago.

The bulk of about five trillion lira (\$1.6 billion) withdrawn from banks in panic before the start of the war have been returned, bankers said.

A fast recovery in business confidence was also reflected at Istanbul's emerging stock market, where share prices went up 7.6 per cent last week.

Ordinary Turks, whose real income has more than halved in a decade, have little enthusiasm for Ozal's positive attitude.

A recent round of price hikes, ranging from electricity to paper, is expected to push inflation up further from its annual level of 62 per cent.

Gulf war damages G.M. sales

ATLANTA (R) — General Motors (G.M.) Corporation's chairman said Saturday the Gulf war had stalled the world's car industry, further eroding consumer confidence in the recessionary U.S. market and hurting European sales.

Robert Stempel, interviewed after a speech to U.S. auto dealers, told Reuters the war had hurt Middle East car sales and he hoped U.S. firms in the region would not be hurt by lingering anti-Americanism.

"The war has had a negative effect on consumer confidence. As a result, with the precipitous fall-off and the confidence not being there, people are staying away from our (new car and truck) showrooms," he said.

G.M. rocked world financial markets last Monday by cutting

its cash dividend by almost 50 per cent and setting plans to cut the jobs of 15,000 of its 100,000 North American white-collar workers through 1993.

The world's biggest industrial corporation, which in 1989 posted global profits of \$4.2 billion, is scheduled to announce 1990 full-year results next Thursday.

Securities analysts predict that G.M., which has taken charges against income to cut back operations, will record a full-year 1990 loss and a record operation loss for its fourth quarter.

G.M. President Lloyd Reuss has said the company's important North American car business probably lost money last year.

Stempel said in the interview: "Obviously we'd like the war to be settled ... clearly when that

gets behind us we'll go to work on the economy. When we get that settled down, then we're ready to go with our new products and get some sales."

He said G.M. slashed North American 1991 production rates for new cars and trucks from late 1990 levels due to dwindling orders from U.S. dealers.

The G.M. chief said European business turned down after the start of the Gulf war on Jan. 17.

"One strong country is still Germany, but (Britain), Spain, Italy, France are weakening. So what has been a booming market is just a little slower as people sort of regroup and think about this armed conflict," he said.

Stempel said that due to the Gulf war, "my Mideast market is zero right now. There's a lot of pent-up demand in the Mideast, if politics made direct G.M. sales not feasible, he said.

G.M., which exports mainly large passenger and luxury cars and sport utility vehicles to Saudi Arabia and other Middle East states, would likely sell its cars in the region through its German Adam Opel A.G. subsidiary if politics made direct G.M. sales not feasible, he said.

Hotels warn of job losses, the Irish Tourist Board has cancelled a U.S. advertising promotion campaign, car hire reservations are down and six American bands have decided to opt out of Ireland's national day parade in Dublin next month.

Irish Tourist Board officials said they now fear that last week's Irish Republican Army (IRA) mortar bomb attack on Major's London residence could have a knock-on effect on tourism.

Almost half of the 440,000 U.S. visitors to Ireland last year came via other European cities, mainly London.

Officials say they are concerned that the attack, combined with a reserve of Western currency.

Foreign trade, especially food exports, increased more than expected, rising 15 per cent over 1989, the government said. Imports dropped by 16 per cent, creating a surplus.

The inflation rate, which reached an all-time high of more than 1,100 per cent annually when calculated last February, has been reined in. The 1990 inflation rate was about 250 per cent, with the increase in December about five per cent.

Real incomes sank by 22.1 per cent during 1990, and real wages by 29.1 per cent, according to the government report.

However, some economists, including government adviser Jeffrey Sachs of Harvard University, suggest the drop in real incomes is more in the 10 per cent range. They say the official statistics do not account for the value of the vastly improved supplies of consumer goods and the new items and services that become available daily.

Corporate business is also suffering in Ireland — as it is across Europe — with executives reluctant to travel and video conferencing enjoying a boom.

The Irish Tourist Board said last week that it postponed a \$900,000 advertising campaign in the U.S. media.

Some of that money has been switched to Europe. Ireland attracted 740,000 tourists from Europe last year and officials hope the continent can make up for some of the U.S. shortfall.

The Gulf war apart, the industry is also worried that an economic recession in the major U.S. and British markets could keep many would-be holidaymakers at home this year.

Bonn considers banning anti-Israeli terms in Arab contracts

BONN (R) — The German government is investigating ways to stop German firms signing anti-Israeli clauses in contracts with Arab companies, the foreign ministry said Saturday.

Spokesman Hans Schumacher said it was reviewing laws in the United States, France and the Netherlands prohibiting companies there from signing Arab contracts which included a pledge to boycott Israel.

He denied that the government's interest was provoked by criticism from German Jewish leaders and Israeli Ambassador Benjamin Navon, who said Friday the anti-Israeli clauses amounted to "an economic war against my country."

"The issue has been under consideration for some time. The boycott clauses are not new, they've been known of for a long time," Schumacher said.

"The federal government rejects the trade boycott against Israel. We are considering the experience other countries have had with prohibiting boycott clauses."

Several German firms said the clauses were a routine matter which did not prevent them trading with Israel.

"It was an open secret ... the war forced them to put negotiations and signing of new contracts on hold," the China Daily's business weekly reported.

China Metallurgical Construction Corp. planned to negotiate for several projects in Iran and Jordan, and China International Water and Electricity Corp. was on the verge of signing contracts for projects in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, the paper said.

But work on some ongoing projects in the United Arab Emirates was continuing, the report said.

"If we did nothing in the Gulf region now, we would lose the chance to enter the market after the war," said Zhai Guangjiang, an official for the China State Construction Engineering Corp.

The four companies are maintaining contacts with Saudi Arabian firms. China and Saudi Arabia established diplomatic relations last year, and the firms were just beginning to discuss sending Chinese labourers to the kingdom.

"We are not going to solve it (the credit crunch) by getting banks to open up the (lending) spigot," Greenspan said. "What we need is a restoration of sound lending and sensible supervision."

The Fed has tried to tackle the problem by lowering interest rates and by reducing the level of reserves banks must set aside to cover their deposits.

A NAM survey found that nearly two-thirds of the 150 so-called companies here for the association's meeting believe that the growth of manufacturing could be curtailed by the credit crunch.

The credit crunch has aggravated America's economic downturn because banks have grown increasingly stingy in making the loans that U.S. business need to grow.

The Fed is also working with the Treasury Department and other bank regulatory agencies to change accounting rules that may be discouraging banks from lending more, Greenspan said.

"We have every reason to believe that the lowering of interest rates, the changes in reserve requirements and the removal of inappropriate, inhibiting accounting procedures should bring the credit crunch to an end," he said.

The future of projects in Iraq remains in doubt, though no firm has ruled out doing business there in the future, the report said.

The four companies have lost \$1 billion since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait last August. Their losses include non-payment by Kuwait and Iraq for completed projects, deposits lost in local banks, equipment left in the Middle East and the cost of evacuating workers, the report said.

China said before the outbreak of war last month that it had lost \$2 billion in trade, transport and civil aviation. The figure did not include debts owed by Iraq for trade and labour.

Heavy industry comprises 70 per cent of all industrial production and light industry, including items such as brandy, cigarettes and textiles, 30 per cent.

Pashko, a professor of economics and until last December a member of the Communist Party, said that light industry must be developed to absorb a ballooning workforce caused by population growth of about two per cent a year in the 1960s and 1970s.

Unemployment in the 14 million-strong workforce is between five and 10 per cent, Pashko said. China put the number of jobless at 30,000 or about two per cent.

Albania plans radical economic reform

THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT

IS PLANNING MAJOR ECONOMIC

CHANGES AFTER 46 YEARS OF

STALINIST CENTRAL PLANNING AND

ISOLATION FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

"WE WILL APPLY RADICAL REFORMS," SAID STATE ECONOMIST LEON CHUCHI IN AN INTERVIEW.

"WE WILL GIVE UP CENTRAL PLANNING AS A DRIVING FORCE AND INTRODUCE THE MECHANISM OF A MARKET ECONOMY."

UNDER ENVER HOXA, WHO ESTABLISHED COMMUNIST RULE IN 1944, SUCH TALK COULD HAVE MEANT EXECUTION, AND AFTER HIS DEATH IN 1985 IT COULD HAVE MEANT A LONG STAY IN PRISON.

BUT SINCE LAST MONTH PRESIDENT RAMZI ALIAS HAS MOVED TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORMS THAT HAVE SWEEPED OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE HAS SET THE FIRST FREE ELECTION FOR MARCH 31.

IN RECENT WEEKS THE TINY BALKAN STATE ON THE ADRIATIC SEA, WITH 3.3 MILLION INHABITANTS AND AN ANNUAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT OF JUST \$4 BILLION — HAS OPENED UP IN A WAY UNTHINKABLE A YEAR AGO.

THE STATUS OF STALIN IN THE CENTRE OF THE CAPITAL, TIRANA, HAS BEEN TAKEN DOWN AND BUSINESSMEN FROM ITALY, FRANCE, GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND CAN BE HEARD AT

MARCH 31.

“WE ARE PLANNING TO DO THIS

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,” SAID LEON

CHUCHI, THE STATE ECONOMIST.

“WE ARE PLANNING TO DO THIS

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Lithuanians defy Kremlin, vote overwhelmingly to leave S. Union

VILNIUS, U.S.S.R. (AP) — Lithuanians defied Mikhail Gorbachev's appeals and voted overwhelmingly to split their Baltic Union yesterday.

Their president said Sunday he hoped the result of the non-binding voting would be other republics to take the same step.

Lithuanian election officials said early Sunday that according to preliminary results, 90.5 per cent of voters cast ballots in favour of independence and 6.5 per cent against. The rest of the ballots were invalid, said Lina Stasiulenė, a Lithuanian parliament spokeswoman.

After the announcement, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told reporters in a packed conference hall at the fortified parliament building that the result justified the Lithuanian secession drive.

"I think it is a victory against lying and intimidation. The Lithuanian people reject lies and they are not afraid," he said.

The Soviet president last week declared the vote "legally invalid" and told Lithuanians they must take part in a nationwide, Kremlin-ordered referendum on March 17 on preserving the union. Lithuanian leaders have refused, saying Soviet law was not binding on their territory.

Landsbergis said the result should encourage the neighbouring Baltic states of Latvia and Estonia to proceed with plans for similar polls on their territory.

Roughly 2.7 million of the republic's 5.7 million people were eligible to vote, according to parliament officials. The turnout was 34 per cent. Ms. Stasiulenė said.

The count was based on results phoned in by the 55 voting districts, she said.

At 11 p.m. (2100 GMT), before any vote projections were released, Landsbergis went on television to congratulate citizens.

"The great majority of people in Lithuania no longer have any fear, and once again express their determination to the world," he said. "Today we did good work, and we took one more step along the road to independence."

The vote was expected to give Lithuania some moral ammunition in a secessionist struggle that is being watched closely within the Soviet Union and around the world.

About 17 per cent of Lithuania's population is ethnic Russian or Polish, and those minority groups are the biggest source of opposition to secession.

The Soviet military and KGB secret police increased their presence in Lithuania on the eve of the vote, which was held four weeks after soldiers stormed Lithuania's broadcasting centre, killing 15 civilians. A total of 21 people have died in the recent crackdown in Lithuania and the neighbouring Baltic Republic of Latvia.

An estimated 1,400 armed KGB cadets in full battle gear arrived Friday night at bases near Vilnius and Lithuania's second largest city, Kaunas. Lithuanian parliament spokesman Audrius Azubalis said.

Polls opened at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) Saturday and closed at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT). Fearing interference in the vote-counting, election officials said no ballots would be transported to Vilnius on the night of the vote. Instead, the votes were to be counted centrally and results called in to Vilnius.

Over 40 Albanians arrested in clashes

VIENNA (R) — Over 40 Albanians were arrested after clashes in the country's largest port Saturday in which police fired in the air and there may have been fatalities, opposition sources said.

Genc Poto, spokesman for the fledgling Democratic Party, said Albanian television reported 44 arrests and 33 police injured in the clashes, which followed rumours that Albanians would be allowed to board an Italian

bound ferry without visas.

The television gave no figure for civilian casualties in the port of Durres, saying only that there had been some. Poto, reached by telephone, said he had heard reports of bodies being taken away.

He said the television had shown one person lying on the ground who appeared to be dead. "From the way the body was lying, I can't believe the person

was alive," he said.

Poto said several thousands of people arrived in Durres Friday night in response to rumours circulating that the ferry that plies between Trieste and Bari in Italy and Durres three times a month would take anyone who wanted to go.

The would-be emigrants included people from other towns, including a large contingent from Tirana, the capital, he said.

Burma signs major deal with China

BANGKOK (R) — Burma has agreed to buy arms worth nearly \$7 billion from China, one of the few countries to maintain close ties with Rangoon's army government, diplomats said at the weekend.

If the ECCS failed to operate, the accident could have caused a meltdown of the core, the magnitude of which would equal the accident at Three Mile Island, the Kyodo News Agency quoted nuclear expert Nisaburo Takagi as saying.

"There is little to worry about because the radiation discharged to the atmosphere has been kept to an absolute minimum by a special filter," a power company spokesman said.

Small pipes in the steam generator had developed cracks or holes, allowing radioactive

Japan shuts down reactor after generator is damaged

TOKYO (R) — Japan shut down a three-loop of four defective steam generators in its 1,350-megawatt reactor in the five water into its second cooling chamber, government and power company officials said Sunday.

The accident caused the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) to pour a huge amount of water into the reactor's core to prevent fuel rods from melting down, they said.

The 500,000-kilowatt pressurized water reactor at Fukui, 350 kilometres west of Tokyo, is owned and operated by Kansai Electric Power Company.

It was the first time an emergency device has shut down a troubled nuclear reactor in Japan, which has 38 nuclear power plants.

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India begins census

NEW DELHI (R) — Some 1.5 million census takers fanned out over India this weekend, visiting shacks and mansions to find out just how big the population explosion is in the world's second most heavily populated nation.

The army of enumerators will seek out every home in a country the size of Western Europe over the next three weeks, with a special brief to try to coax the truth from Indians about how many women and children work.

"I think this could very well be the greatest administrative exercise in the world," said A.R. Nanda, India's registrar general and census commissioner.

How many people are in India today?

"My hunch is it will be 860 to 865 million," he said in an interview.

The enumerators' task of finding out the age, geographic origins, schooling and work of every Indian for the bi-yearly census is not easy.

This time they have the sensitive job of questioning women intensively, trying to uncover the real facts about how many people in each family earn money.

Social workers say 55 million children under the age of 14 work in India, including 10 million bonded into servitude.

They also say India has a vast army of unpaid or poorly paid women workers, whose labour outside the home goes unrecorded for fear of social stigma or simply because it is not valued.

"Women must come out and explain what work they do, even if it's unpaid work or the family farm," Nanda said.

With barely four Indians in 10 able to read and write, the enumerators have no choice but to visit every hotel, tent, or collection of mud and sticks which has a roof and people sleeping inside, Nanda said.

The questions will be put in India's 103 different written languages and several hundred dialects.

"The literacy rate is not high enough to permit a mailing system such as in the United States," Nanda said.

"All houses all over India have

been located. This was completed last year," he said, putting one tone of a housing report on his desk.

The census will inevitably be out of date before it is completed. A recent World Bank report said India adds as many people each year as live in Nepal or Australia.

Nanda said India's population grew at a rate of between two and 2.5 per cent in the 1980s. The birth rate is currently around 30 per thousand, compared with a target of 24.

That translates into one extra mouth every two seconds and it means India will overtake China in the next 50 years as the most populous nation on Earth.

India is already twice as densely populated as China, putting intolerable pressure on the environment, cities and services like water and electricity.

But by Nanda's definition the homeless — those who sleep on pavements, railway platforms, underneath highway overpasses or inside construction piping — number only about 600,000.

They will be counted on the last night of the census. "We have special teams that for three weeks try to figure out where these people are settling down for the night," Nanda said.

The census takers will ride camels across deserts, drive carts between villages, paddle canoes through rainy forests, and trudge along the snowline to get to some homes.

In the Onges tribal area in the Andaman and Nicobar islands, they will lay out food and cigarettes, plant and Indian flag, and retire.

Diplomats in Rangoon feared the weapons might be used to quell any repeat of 1988's civilian protests besides continuing assaults on ethnic rebels. There has been no word of the deal in the official media.

Karen insurgents on Burma's eastern border recently said they feared Rangoon had chemical weapons as well as jet fighters, but that neither had been used against them. Diplomats said there was no evidence the Chinese had supplied any chemical weapons.

"They will be stopped at sunrise on pilgrimage and inter-viewed," Nanda said.

"All houses all over India have

Slovenia threatens secession

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia said Sunday it was stepping up moves towards secession and warned that the whole of Yugoslavia could disintegrate.

"The secession of Slovenia could trigger a chain reaction among other republics in Yugoslavia," Slovenian President Milan Kucan said in an interview in the Croatian newspaper Vjesnik.

He was speaking after talks between all of Yugoslavia's six constituent republics except Croatia broke up Friday without progress towards an agreement on how to prevent ethnic and political rivalries tearing the country apart.

Croatia and Slovenia, two of the four republics which ended Communist rule last year in free elections, threaten to secede unless Yugoslavia becomes a loose, confederal alliance.

They are opposed by Communist-ruled Serbia, the biggest republic, which wants a centrally-ruled federation.

"We are at the most delicate moment. There appears to be no solution," a Western diplomat said.

Kucan, one of Slovenia's most respected politicians, said the breakdown of talks showed that even a confederal alliance was impossible now between all six republics.

He also said that Slovenia's centre-right government would propose formal procedures on separation to its parliament on Feb. 20 and that the Alpine region bordering Austria, Hungary and Italy would be independent by next year.

"I think it is perfectly natural that Croatia would seek independence soon after Slovenia achieves independence. It is only a question of when both will happen," Kucan told Vjesnik.

The position of Croatia within Yugoslavia is more complex than Slovenia's. But the thesis that Yugoslavia can survive without Slovenia and not without Croatia is not acceptable."

Relations between Yugoslavia's many ethnic groups have rarely been good since the Balkan federation was created in 1918 after the fall of the Austro-Hungarian empire in World War I.

Relations deteriorated after the death of Communist ruler Josip Broz Tito in 1980 after 35 years in power and nationalism rose sharply last year during the first free elections in the six republics since World War II.

Five shops were looted and 15 makeshift election offices of the two parties set afire or ransacked, police said.

At least five people have been killed and more than 600 others injured in election-related violence since December when the country's interim caretaker government set a date for the elections.

Witnesses in Chittagong said Saturday's clash started when a procession of the fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami Party was attacked by Awami League workers near the port.

A series of bombs exploded and several gunshots also were heard, the witnesses said, speaking on condition of anonymity. They also were contacted by telephone.

The violence later spread to other parts of the city, which remained tense Sunday morning with supporters of the two parties moving about in groups armed with iron rods and sticks, the witnesses said.

Police officials did not confirm the witness reports but said no one has been arrested.

At least 90 parties are contesting the elections for 300 parliamentary seats. The elections were called after former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad resigned on Dec. 6, bowing to a massive popular movement.

The seven-week, anti-Ershad campaign was led mostly by university students and backed by a coalition of political parties including the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina.

The true covers the road, rail and oil pipeline from the Indian Ocean port of Beira to landlocked Zimbabwe and a second line from the capital, Maputo, to

U.S.-Soviet row threatens CFE accord ratification

VIENNA (R) — Negotiations on reducing conventional forces in Europe resume this week under the cloud of a superpower row which threatens to block ratification of a milestone arms-cutting accord.

The 22 nations involved in the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) talks will hold their first session since Nov. 18, when they concluded an historic treaty slashing their arsenals of tanks, artillery and other non-nuclear arms.

But as negotiators returned to Vienna to start work on another treaty cutting troop levels, the Soviet Union was under attack for trying to circumvent the arms accord and the United States was threatening to destroy them under the treaty.

Moscow argues that most of the equipment was withdrawn from Central Europe in a unilateral move announced by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1988, before the talks began.

But Western delegates say there was evidence that some of the arms were moved during the negotiations and even after the accord was signed.

Soviet officials have assured their negotiating partners that the arms are intended to modernise those in the East, and that the old equipment will then be destroyed.

"We are going to keep after them on this," one Western delegate said, "to find out how much will be destroyed, how much will be used, and what will be used for."

Another less serious problem for the West was that Moscow settled the dispute over classification.

Failure to ratify the treaty would make it difficult to conclude other arms control agreements.

Washington seeks more time to close bases in Philippines

MANILA (R) — The United States said Sunday it would be able to help the Philippines better economically if given more time to phase down its military presence in the country.

But it stressed that, if necessary, it could fight any aggression and prevail without need for a single American soldier on Philippine soil.

Chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage made the statement on arrival in Manila for the fifth round of talks on the future of U.S. military bases in this former American colony.

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